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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

BATTAGLIA et al.

Atty. Ref.: 2694-200

Serial No. 09/615,838

TC/A.U.: 2616

Filed: July 13, 2000

Examiner: V. Boccio

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January 7, 2005

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. A description of the Japanese references is also attached.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

This IDS is being filed more than three (3) months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

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Attached is our check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Acct No. 14-1140 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made [37 C.F.R. '1.97(g)], an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner [Commissioner's Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 12-25 at 25].

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Mark E. Nusbaum
Reg. No. 32,348

MEN:mg
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

